3: Chinnery G, E-5 (1929) 1931 OM10 New Ireland OM10

population, with the object of ascertaining whether there is a fair distribution of work along the whole length of the road. At the same time, since it is desirable that able-bodied men and women, not absent from the villages on indentured service or for other reasons, should spend as much time as possible in food production, it is suggested that some system might be arranged for the road to be kept in repair by a mobile road gang, suitably equipped with transport and necessities, thus releasing the local natives for their own work, from which they might sometimes be absent longer than is compatible with welfare, e.g., occasions such as the building of new bridges, &c.

NEW AGRICULTURAL METHODS.

I have stressed the point that natives should be encouraged to spend as much time as possible in their gardens. At present, owing to the production of copra, which brings in ready money for relatively little labour, there is a tendency for some of the natives in well-planted districts to neglect garden work and live more or less on European food. One reason is of course the poorness of the soil, which, though suitable for coco-nuts, is not, under present methods of native gardening, fertile enough for food crops. Under the agricultural policy of the Administration, however, selected natives from various parts of the territory are to be trained in correct methods of cultivating good crops and other crops of economic value. They will learn how the fertility of the soil can be maintained, and how the same land can be kept in constant cultivation without deteriorating. I have discussed the problem of the east coast road of New Ireland with Mr. George Murray, Director of Agriculture, and he agrees with me that the introduction of proper methods of food cultivation will prove to be of great benefit to the people. Not only will they be saved the endless hardship of searching the bush for new garden ground (now necessary owing to primitive methods of shifting cultivation); but there will also be given to them a new interest of vital material value, which will do much towards regenerating them. It is important, therefore, that representatives from the various villages of the east coast of New Ireland should be encouraged to take the course in agriculture provided by the Government, or, if this cannot be arranged, that instruction be given in the villages.

GENERAL.

In general, the contentment and peaceful progress of a population rests largely on the confidence it has in its district officials and the influence exerted by such officials. Every means should be provided to assist district officials to increase their knowledge of the people for whose welfare they are responsible. Staff conditions should allow